



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Agriculture

Office of the Director

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August 19, 2005

Kenneth C. Clayton, Acting Administrator
Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs
AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0237,
Washington, DC 20250-0237



RE: Docket No. FV05-929-610 REVIEW
Federal Register: July 12, 2005 (Volume 70, Number 132)]

I am writing to comment on the USDA/ AMS request for input about the cranberry marketing order (No. 929) and its impact on small businesses.

I strongly urge USDA to exempt Oregon entirely from Marketing Order 929.

The average size cranberry farm in Oregon is 18 acres. Coos County on the southern Oregon coast is the only location in the state that produces cranberries. This county is classified as an economically depressed area.

The impact of the current marketing order hurts Oregon growers and further imperils the economic viability of the area. Most of the growers in the area sell to small, independent handlers.

Total output by Oregon growers is about 550,000 barrels per year, less than 8% of total U.S. cranberry production. Growers in other areas determine the production, the market, the impacts on producers, the management of the marketing order, and prices – Oregon production is insignificant in the market, yet is ruled by a marketing order that applies to all production areas.

Canadian production, contracted by Ocean Spray and brought into the U.S., is larger than Oregon production.

Oregon cranberry production should be exempted from the marketing order, or the order rescinded, to end the negative impacts on production and pricing for small producers and production areas.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,


Katy Cobar
Director